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ELECTIONEERING IN
THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

A Condensation of a Paper

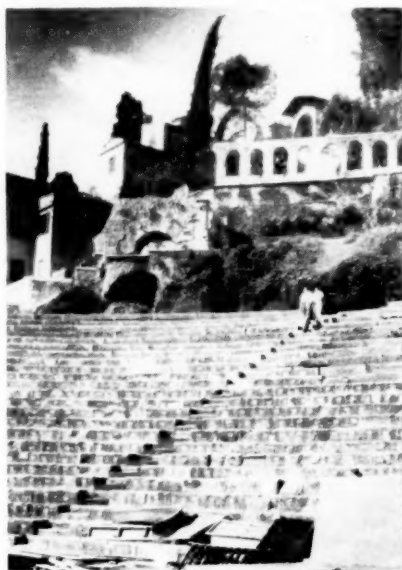
By MARS M. WESTINGTON

Hanover College

AT A TIME when the eyes of the world are focused on one of the greatest political dramas in our nation's history, it is not inappropriate that we should direct our attention to Roman election techniques, many of which have cast their shadow on the modern electoral landscape. Because of limitations of space, however, this article does not purport to deal exhaustively with all aspects of Roman elections. It aims rather to treat within certain limits some phases of electioneering practices during the Roman Republic and to mention a few modern parallels.

In Roman times, the modern party system, which is such an important factor in controlling elections, had not yet been born. Even by the last century of the Republic, it was barely in the embryonic stage. There did exist, of course, a sharp line of demarcation between conservatives or republicans, the *optimates* or *boni*, and the liberals or democratic party, the *populares* or *improbi*, as their political opponents termed them. According to Cicero, the former group comprised "all who bravely defend the institutions of our ancestors." Their viewpoint would have been upheld by such an ardent Republican champion as the *Chicago Tribune*. On the other hand, the aim of the latter group was to protect and to enlarge the rights of the people. Its policy would have been supported by such loyal advocates of the Democratic cause as the *Boston Globe*.

With regard to formalities of political candidacy, it was not until the twilight of the Republic that there were any restrictions as to declaration of intention. In earlier times, men were elected to high office without even entering the political arena. No candidate was compelled to be present on election day. Many individuals were actually elected when serving in the army far afield. On some occasions, all the principal magistrates were chosen *in absentia*. But by 98 B. C. the picture was changed. A candidate was now forced by law to make a formal announcement of his candidacy (*pro-*



Courtesy of Morris Rosenblum

Theater of Augustus at Verona

fiteri) seventeen days before the elections. In 52 B. C., Pompey, as sole consul, passed a law which prevented anyone from standing for office when absent.

During the period between the *professio* and election day, the tempo of vote-getting was stepped up. It was in this interval that there arose the custom of *ambitio*, the canvassing of individuals by an aspirant to public office. The candidate donned his artificially whitened toga (*toga candida*), surrounded himself with an imposing cortege, and, with the aid of a nomenclator of unusually keen retentive powers, went on a handshaking tour. Cicero termed these office-seekers a *natio officiosissima*. Everything they did was done for effect. The vote-hunter who wanted to be sure of success had to shake the hand of all Italy, directly or indirectly, from the Po southward. Opulent candidates of high birth frequently set in motion a huge machine with election agents, each of whom was responsible for a division of a tribe. And in the days of spirited campaigning, when a close election race was impending, individual solicitation was supplemented by the efforts of organized clubs and committees.

From time to time, curbs were put on both the dress and the zeal of the handshaker. A law passed in 432 B.C. forbade a candidate to whiten his

toga with chalk before elections. But this enactment was either repealed or disregarded, because the *toga candida* was the characteristic dress of the *petitor* during the last two centuries of the Republic. And it became whiter and whiter, even without the aid of Duz or the New Oxydol! Ten years later, another piece of legislation made the public solicitation of votes illegal. The *lex Poetelia*, passed in 358 B.C., was designed to check the excessive zeal of candidates. But in spite of these repressive measures, electoral enthusiasm never flagged, and during the next three centuries it gradually rose to an all-time high.

In all periods, bribery played so conspicuous a role in Roman elections as to merit special emphasis. As early as the fifth century, the aristocratic priestly colleges, under the guise of religion, seconded the bribery freely practiced on the electorate. And in the more degenerate days of the dying Republic, countless office-seekers were swept into power on a stream of votes which had a monetary source. In the latter period, bribery was very systematically organized. Candidates employed regular agents (*interpretes*) whose duty it was to secure the suffrages of sizeable segments of the voting population. The money promised was placed, until the election was over, in the hands of trustees (*sequestres*), and was finally distributed by paymasters (*divisores*). But it was through the medium of political clubs that bribery flourished in its worst form. By the middle of the first century, big money was being poured into vote-getting. For example, in 54 B.C. the first voting division alone was offered a bribe of \$500,000.

Nor was bribery confined to money alone. Food and drink were provided gratis to the prospective voter. The master artist in "working" the guilds for this purpose was Clodius. Shortly before the elections, he would have a few casks of wine sent to each "lodge" with his compliments. Under the terms of the *lex Licinia* of 58 B.C., "treating" was made an offense. This brings to mind the so-called "Treating Act" in England, by which it is illegal "to provide meat, drink, and entertainment . . . at any time before, during, or after an election for corrupt influence or reward." An American

counterpart of the Roman practice is the political picnic.

Measures were taken periodically to suppress such corruption. Formal action against bribery dates from the early second century. Nine legislative enactments in the last two centuries of the Republic were aimed at eradicating it. But it should be remembered that these measures stemmed from political rather than from moral considerations. Special courts were established to deal with corrupt election practices. Penalties ranged from fines and exclusion from public office to banishment and even death. Yet bribery continued to be a part of the electoral process until the time when popular elections were no more.

A particular form of this electioneering technique which escaped general censure was the staging of public games by an official who had his eye on a higher political post. In the late Republic, this custom was almost a "must." In providing such entertainment, it was necessary that state funds be supplemented by private donations. Since a single set of games might involve an outlay of \$40,000, it is quite obvious that ambitious politicians might soon find themselves insolvent. In this sphere Julius Caesar provides the example *par excellence*. Even though the senate limited him to 320 pairs of gladiators, yet his aedileship in 65 B.C. cost him \$800,000 and left him completely bankrupt.

As early as 176 B.C., the senate had tried to place a check on this method of securing votes. Cicero in his consulship made it unlawful for a person to give gladiatorial exhibitions within two years of any election in which he was to be a candidate. But this legislative measure, like many others, did not attain its end. Cato the Stoic roundly condemned such attractions, but he was a voice crying in the wilderness. The populace had different views and the shows went on.

Gladiatorial combats and wild beast shows were a favorite Roman diversion from daily routine. They do not form a part of the American scene and therefore do not enter our election picture. Yet we employ exactly the same principle as the Romans. In recent years our most popular entertainment medium has been the radio. On the pre-election eve both in 1944 and in 1948, one of the two major political parties enlisted the aid of topflight Hollywood stars on an extended radio broadcast.

Modern election riots and the use of hooligans and gunmen to terrorize

the voter in certain metropolitan precincts form a parallel to another campaign method which found acceptance among the Romans. It was the expectation of violence on the part of the Catilinarians that induced Cicero to appear with a bodyguard and in "shining armor" at the postponed elections of 63 B.C. Ten years later, when Milo sought the consulship and Clodius the praetorship, violence reached such proportions that the regular elections could not be held. The reign of terror set up by these two gangsters and their ruffian henchmen was not broken until Pompey was declared sole consul in 52 B.C., and finally restored order. At election time both parties had sought the effective aid of the various guilds (*collegia*). All of these organizations, which exerted a strong influence on the fortunes of the city, were dealt a severe blow by Pompey, who put through legislation with teeth in it. And Caesar, with dictatorial finality, completely abolished all *collegia* which had any political coloring.

As for Roman election issues, many bore a marked resemblance to those of modern times. A prominent Roman question was the agrarian problem, which arose through the acquisition of public lands by a small group of men. The troubles springing from this situation were not unlike those connected with absentee landlordism in Ireland. From the time of the Gracchi, the land question bulked large in Roman politics.

A political issue as old as the Roman Republic and as recent as the 1952 presidential campaign is the high cost of living. On this point successive laws were passed in Rome. These provided at first that grain should be sold to the people without a profit, then at a figure below cost. Finally a bill of Clodius permitted the free distribution of grain on a large scale. It would not be hard to discern an ulterior political motive behind this Clodian generosity. The distribution, however, was probably justified on the score of national interest!

Another election issue common to both Rome and America is that of civil rights in the form of the extension of the franchise. For many years this was a sore point with the Italians outside of the city who did not enjoy full rights of Roman citizenship. In 90 B.C. they decided to fight it out. Within two years they gained the privileges for which they had taken up the sword. In our country the question of restricting or extending the franchise gave rise to much discussion during the nine-

teenth century, in the days of the "Know-Nothing" party, a group of nativists whose antipathy was aroused by the gift of the suffrage to many foreigners. A broader view of the American picture shows a significant parallelism to the conservative Roman attitude. In Revolutionary times only one American in sixteen was granted voting privileges. For example, in New England an individual had to possess a certain amount of property and be a Congregationalist in order to vote. Then under the Jacksonian and Jeffersonian regimes came a widening of the franchise. But in every case the property class grudgingly admitted the extension, just as this group did in Rome. In theory, all male citizens of military age enjoyed the right of suffrage, a concession we have made only in the state of Georgia. Actually, however, because of primitive methods of transportation, most state officials in ancient Rome were elected by those who lived within a few miles of the Palatine.

While every Roman might be simultaneously a member of more than one assembly, it was the *Comitia Centuriata* which elected the higher officials. From 139 B.C. the *lex Gabinia* provided that each century should vote by secret ballot. In later ages the secret ballot fell into disuse. It was revived in Australia in 1858, and is hence often called the "Australian ballot." It was adopted in Great Britain in 1872. In the United States it was first employed shortly before the turn of the century in the municipal elections of Louisville, Kentucky. Today it is required by law in all states except South Carolina.

The stuffing of ballot-boxes and other types of fraud were so common that, as a precautionary measure, every Roman candidate was given the privilege of stationing a guard at each urn into which the ballots were cast. Also, ballots did not all carry the same weight. Voting was based on the group principle, and a group of rich people who constituted the first century in each tribe could easily swing the election. A similar situation has existed in modern times in Central European countries. In the early part of the twentieth century, the vote of 15 per cent of the Prussian electorate carried much more weight than did that of the remaining 85 per cent. Only a few years ago Belgium witnessed a general strike which was called as a condemnation of class voting. And one has to go back only a little farther into history to hear the fam-

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LETTERS FROM
OUR READERS

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

Miss Essie Hill, of Little Rock, Ark., formerly chairman of the Committee on Classical Clubs of the American Classical League, writes as follows:

"Some of the Latin clubs of Indiana have distinctive autumn activities. One of the most popular is the autumn initiation of new members by the Latin club at North Side High School, Fort Wayne. It is called 'The Descent to Hades.' The building is remarkably adapted to such a program. On the basement level the corridor is a complete circle around a central auditorium. The initiates, after being prepared in appearance and spirit, are led blindfolded by Mercury down steps from the third floor to the circle (the Styx), where Charon awaits them with a wagon and a long pole. The trip is enlivened by descriptions of the scenery by Mercury, and by sound effects. Charon takes the 'souls' to the entrance to the lower world, where Cerberus is stationed. Then the 'souls' are brought one at a time before three judges, where their good and bad deeds are weighed on actual scales. The 'deeds' are two sacks, marked *Bona* and *Mala*, which each 'soul' must carry. Judgment is then pronounced and the 'souls' are sentenced either to Tartarus or to Elysium. In the former, penalties are inflicted (previously determined); in Elysium something pleasant awaits them. Members enjoy preparing penalties for the initiates!

"In the same school, three times a year the three foreign language clubs combine for a big celebration, committees being drawn from all the clubs. For several years the fall affair has been a dance following a football game, and called 'Terpsichore's Trot.'

"The Latin club at Hammond, Indiana, plays a 'pennant game,' in which college pennants must be matched with Latin mottoes. The same club constructed a 'Trojan horse,' which was entered in the Homecoming parade."

TESTIMONIALS

Miss Lydian Bennett, of the East Liverpool (Ohio) High School, writes:

"Our pupils wrote to John Kieran and to Senator Robert A. Taft, asking each his opinion of the value of the study of Latin. The replies were as follows:

ous cry of the French Revolution, "Votez par tête!"

A study of Roman elections makes it abundantly clear that over the centuries the human equation has remained pretty constant. The game of politics is an old one. It was played hard and at a low moral level in Roman times, as it is today. Electoral battles have been pitched along similar lines throughout the ages, and have brought into play similar techniques. These devices rank among the numerous features of Roman civilization which the passing of the centuries has not changed, and their survival only serves to confirm the approximate truth of a very old adage, "Nihil sub sole novi."

VERSE-WRITING
CONTEST

THE CLASSICAL OUTLOOK will this year conduct another Verse-Writing Contest for high school and college students. Any high school or college student may enter the contest provided he is *this year* studying Latin, Greek, or classical civilization under a teacher *who is a member of the American Classical League*. Certificates of honorable mention will be awarded to the writers of all verses chosen for publication. Manuscripts must bear the name of the student, of his high school or college, and of his teacher of Latin or Greek. The verse may be in English, Latin, or Greek; the theme must be drawn from classical literature or mythology, or classical antiquity, in the broadest sense of the term. The poems must be entirely original—not translations of passages from ancient authors. No verses which have ever been published, even in a school

paper, are eligible. No manuscripts will be returned; and the winning verses are to become the property of the American Classical League. The decisions of the Editorial Board of THE CLASSICAL OUTLOOK shall be final. Announcement of the results will be made in the May, 1953, issue of THE CLASSICAL OUTLOOK. Manuscripts will be received up to February 2, 1953. They may be sent to Professor Lillian B. Lawler, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Professor W. L. Carr, University of Kentucky, Lexington 29, Ky.; or Professor Konrad Gries, Queens College, Flushing, New York.

ELEGIA DE PACCIO
MORTUO

CONDIDIT R. PACCIVS

Annae Arbori Michiganensium

Unguibus ora nota lacrimasque effunde, viator:

Hic iacet in tumulo Paccius ille levis.

Non gestis ita magnus erat, non corpore toto:

Adice quinque pedes, uncia nona tegit.

Qui deus hunc leto dederit, fortasse requiris.

Delia nulla neci dira sagitta dedit,

Victima nec Baccho, fratri* sed condidit Euhi

(Quis nescit Semelam tum peperisse duos?).

Vitaeque sic vatis cessit ceu fumus in auras,

Sub sparsa cineres flamma reliquit humo.

* *Sc. Tobacco.*

"From John Kieran: 'I believe I profited greatly from my study of Latin in high school and college. Not only did I become acquainted with some of the great writers of human history, like Cicero, Vergil, and Horace, but I also learned how to use the English language to better effect because my Latin study gave me a better understanding of the real meaning of English words. There was some drudgery in the learning of Latin declensions and conjugations, regular and irregular, but even that could be counted a profit in the long run because it was good discipline in mental exercises. As a writer for newspapers and magazines and the author of four or five books, I consider my study of Latin probably the most profitable and cultural venture I ever undertook.'

"From Senator Taft: 'I am happy to give you a statement on the value of studying Latin. Three points occur to me. Because so much of our own language is based upon Latin meanings, fluent understanding of English is greatly advanced by appreciation of its derivation. Latin becomes more important than ever in this atomic age because a lot of the world's exchange of scientific knowledge depends upon the universal nature of Latin meanings. An early appreciation for, and understanding of, Latin also pays dividends throughout life because it greatly enhances one's ability at spelling, and the knack of correct spelling can mean the difference between success and failure in many exciting and profitable job opportunities.'"

AGAIN PREPOSITIONS

Dr. John F. Gummere, Headmaster of the William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia, Pa., writes:

"I cannot let Mr. Dorrance White's challenge (THE CLASSICAL OUTLOOK XXIX, March, 1952, 60) of my thesis about prepositions (*Ibid.*, XXIX, February, 1952, 48) go unchallenged.

"Mr. White nicely adds proof of precisely what I said, namely, that, in such phrases as *cum fratre* or *pro fratre*, the noun would be in the ablative case in any event. Of course one may say that '*cum* takes the ablative,' and that's by far the easiest way to present it to a class. But my remarks were quite obviously intended for teachers.

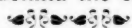
"Mr. White knows perfectly well that he and I and everybody else in studying Latin grammar got, or were given, or both, the impression that it was the prepositions which determined the following case in every instance. Well, that simply isn't true when viewed from the standpoint of

historical grammar (a viewpoint of special interest to both Mr. White and myself). Why, then, is it pedantic to suggest this to teachers? Why try to refute it?

"If we follow Mr. White's lead, it will be pedantic to tell the teacher that *sim* and *velim* are not subjunctives because they pattern just like subjunctives and 'may be said to be subjunctives.' Well, they are optatives. You don't tell a class that, obviously, unless by some strange circumstance they have had Greek; but a teacher is interested in such things, and does well to be aware of them.

"If we follow Mr. White's lead, it will be pedantic and wrong to tell a teacher that the adverbial prefixes seen in such compounds as *remitto*, *confero*, *abduco* are not prepositions. There are grammars in school use which incorrectly call them 'prepositional prefixes.' Why not tell the teacher the truth? Some of these adverbs *are* used as prepositions.

"What is all this? Doesn't a teacher have a right to get a peek behind the paper curtain of the grammar-book page? Why should the teacher be held to the bare bones of 'rules' printed in a book? True scholarship calls for intelligent inquiry into the why's and the wherefore's of all sorts of things and not for taking them for granted. It is both interesting and useful, and far from pedantic, to suggest a peek behind the curtain."



ACTIVITIES OF THE JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

BY ESTELLA KYNE

Wenatchee (Wash.) High School

INSTRUCTORS OF Latin and Greek in high schools and colleges will be pleased to know that membership in the Junior Classical League has nearly doubled in the past four years. On May 16 there were 15,003 members reported for 1951-52, an increase of 19% for the year. Augusta Gibbons, of Sharon, Pa., in charge of membership, reports 531 chapters active now.

The largest chapter was reported at the Waco (Texas) High School, with 192 members. The Cleburne High School, also in Texas, had 151. The Dobyns-Bennett High School, in Kingsport, Tenn., had 145. There were 139 active members in the high school at Webster Groves, Mo., and 126 at Brunswick, Georgia.

The largest state federation was that of Ohio, with 1662 members. Texas had 1659, and Pennsylvania 1324. These three are among the thirty-two where a state chairman

is coordinating activities of Latin clubs. States where no chapter was reported this year are: Utah, Oklahoma, and North Dakota.

Qualifications for membership are decided by each chapter. The chief requirement is that the student have an interest in the classics. Clubs may restrict further than that as they wish. The chapter at Bartlett High School, Webster, Mass., finds the limiting of membership to juniors and seniors an incentive to the electing of third and fourth year Latin. Central High School, Scranton, Pa., has a membership of 104 this year because the local constitution was changed to admit second-year students. Full participation of members is found at Connersville, Indiana, where they serve on nine committees.

Point Pleasant, West Va., is scheduling for the first time this year an entire day's trip to the classical department at one of the larger state colleges; this is for all their members. The annual printed paper, *In Memoriam Vergili*, of the chapter at Clifton Forge, Va., has an impressive report of successful former club members. Wills Point (Texas) High School listed in their November *Hic Et Ille* the locations of their leaders of 1951. The May *Aquila*, from Cheyenne, Wyoming, summarized the plans of members who graduated in June. All the members of the Thomas Jefferson Senior High School chapter were listed by "clans" in their carefully-planned yearbook. They had a business and a social meeting each month except September, when weekly meetings were held. The April *Cumera*, of Henderson, Texas, was an 18-page mimeograph with special mention of members. Each sign of the zodiac was illustrated and a horoscope given. Under the sign of the zodiac appeared names of members with a more personal sketch for each. All members of the chapter at Pompton Lakes, N. J., chose Latin names and used the Latin pronunciation for their meetings. Many chapters show special recognition of members by sending them the birthday card with a greeting in Latin available from the American Classical League. One Washington chapter has on its permanent mailing list the name of each former senior consul, several of whom are now on different continents.

Each chapter uses the time most convenient for its meetings. The chapter at Hannibal, Mo., had seventeen regular and six called meetings. At Bloomfield, N. J., meetings are held once a month at the home of a

member, except in January, when the school is used for the sophomore initiation. They also helped finance the student handbook by sponsoring the "Latin Quarter," with night-club effect in the decorations. There was full membership participation at Webster Groves, Mo., when each class presented a charade at the Halloween party, also when members sang Christmas carols in Latin and exchanged gifts, and again in February, when valentines with Latin messages were distributed by Cupid himself, equipped with bow and arrows.

One chapter in Washington held a "Latin Quarter Dance," with admission at 25¢, following a night football game. Posters featured sketches of Roman coins and modern money. The October issue of the printed paper, *Domini Canis*, of Dominican High School, Detroit, listed officers of the Comitia JCL. The paper, written in three languages, has an editor for each language. In this issue the words of the *Ave Maria* were given in Latin, French, and Spanish. Worthington, Minnesota's "Latin Legion" won honorable mention for their "Winged Victory" float in the Homecoming parade. "Victory," wearing a formal dress, and attended by two girls similarly clad, was seated on a large bronze-winged football. The chapter at Jackson, Minn., entered a float in their Homecoming parade, using an enormous blue jay, with a football under each wing, to represent Jackson on the goal line. The chapter at Fairmont was represented by birds (cardinals) in formation. Arlington Heights, Ill., at their October meeting played a game patterned after the television program, "What's My Line?," with mythological and historical characters.

October 27, 1951, was the date of the first regional meeting of the Junior Classical League. Holy Names Academy, Spokane, was host to 234 delegates from schools in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. The second regional meeting was scheduled for October 25 of this year, in Spokane. The second federation to issue invitations to a regional meeting was Texas. Delegates were invited from clubs in Arkansas and Oklahoma to meet with Texas on November 15, at Henderson. The South Dakota Federation has its state meeting in the fall; Mitchell is the host for 1952. Michigan also is having its annual meeting this fall. State chairmen are encouraged to hold regional meetings in 1952-53, and to plan a national meeting for 1954.

Thereafter regional meetings would be held in alternate years with the national meetings. Most federations have a meeting of the executive board in the fall, to make plans for the spring convention.

The St. Francis Borgia chapter, of Washington, Mo., celebrated National Education Week in November by giving the play *You're Tied to Latin* over the P.A. system, for the entire student body. The same chapter volunteered later to make laurel wreaths for the decorations at the "Breakfast of Champions." The chapter at Havertown, Pa., attended two plays—*Julius Caesar* at Hedgerow Theater, Moylan, Pa., (where there is also a JCL chapter) and *Trojan Women* in the open-air theater at Cedar Crest College in Allentown. They made money by selling address labels and sponsoring two school dances. Kingsport, Tenn., cleared \$650 for their activities. The traditional Harvest Festival in honor of Ceres was observed at St. Mary's High School, Rutherford, N. J., when members brought fruit, wine, and other gifts to a hospital for those with incurable cancer.

At the December meeting at Arlington Heights, Ill., there was the traditional lighting of Saturnalia candles. After the large tapers were lighted by officers, using appropriate Latin words, each member lighted a small candle from those on the altar. The whole group then moved in solemn procession singing "Adeste Fideles." Meadville, Pa., prepared a special Christmas bulletin with seasonal material in Latin as well as English. Much original material was contained in *Stella Romana*, a monthly mimeograph prepared by sophomores at Our Lady of Angels chapter, Cincinnati, Ohio. A Christmas shopping list had Polyphemus wanting another eye; a saddle was needed for the Horse of Troy, a watch for Ulysses (so he need not be twenty years late), an electric fan for Aeolus (so he would not have to blow so hard), and sun-tan lotion for Phaeton. This chapter would like to exchange papers with other chapters.

The story of the *Aeneid* was given in a shadow-play with musical background in January at Wenatchee, Wash. This was adapted from *Very Tragical Mirth*, available at the Service Bureau. The chapter at Wells, Minn., sponsored the "March of Dimes" in their school last year, and served refreshments to visiting and local basketball teams after one game. The club at Cannon Falls, Minn., traveled to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts to see an exhibit of "Modern

Italy at Work" and have dinner in an Italian restaurant. An assembly theme at Barrin High School, Elizabeth, N. J., was "A Trip to Olympus."

Some chapters secure testimonials on the value of Latin study. The chapter at East Liverpool, Ohio, obtained such testimonials from John Kieran and Senator Robert A. Taft (see page 15 of this issue). Notre Dame Academy, Southern Pines, N. C., had an impromptu program when a moderator presided for the topic, "What Latin Does for Students." All girls there study Latin for two years. The Hudson Falls (N. Y.) chapter has learned to sing Latin endings of the five declensions to the record "The Syncopated Clock." Students not members of the Latin Club in Cheyenne, Wyoming, write a thousand-word theme on some aspect of Roman life. They varied class work one week by having each student do intensive research on some god, and report to the others. A paper was then written in class by each pupil, commenting about information in the reports. The same chapter had on the bulletin board cocktail napkins illustrating "Liberated Latin."

A scholarship fund was established from penny-votes for Caesar and Calpurnia at the Roman Romp in San Lorenzo, California. The scholarship will be available for some senior graduating from their first class, in the spring of 1955. The chapters at Libbey High School, Toledo, Ohio, and Penn's Grove, N. J., continue their annual scholarships of \$100 each for some Latin student starting college. Dickinson High School in Jersey City, N. J. gave \$20, and the New Jersey Federation \$10, to the state Rome Scholarship Fund.

Roman weddings are popular in February. Plainview, Texas, had a forty-five minute assembly, "In Ancient Days," showing Roman marriage customs. A three-part ritual was used at Riverton, Wyoming. During the doorstep ceremony the choristers sang the Latin equivalent of "Bless This House." They are offering their ritual to others. The monthly mimeograph from Webster Groves, Mo., *Latimus Rumor*, had a department this year in which prospective brides asked questions about correct social procedure for their weddings. One spring meeting at Cleburne, Texas, had a program on cosmetology. A spring fashion show, Roman style, was given in Webster, Mass., and the summer issue of *Nunc Et Tunc*, of Waco, Texas, had an article about the history and popularity of Tyrian purple.

In March, Renton, Wash., was host to Holy Names JCL of Seattle. Their thirty members took part in a pageant showing the life of Caesar from his birth, including his marriage to Calpurnia, highlights of his Gallic Wars, and the Shakespearean version of his assassination. Middletown, N. Y., gave a burlesque of the story of Julius Caesar, including the rise of the conspiracy, his death, and the defeat of the conspirators. One chapter reported the story of the colossal statue of Vulcan in Birmingham, Ala., as given in the February *Ford Times*. High Point, N. C., had a program on Electra, inspired by a statue of Electra on an electric company's building; it included a romance between Electra and Vulcan. The last issue of the monthly bulletin of the Washington Federation, prepared by the La Conner chapter, mentioned a sign on Highway 90, between Baldwin Co., Ala., and Esambia Co., Fla., reading "Charon retired"; the sign was placed near their River Styx by a scholar in the Highway Department to indicate there was no ferry across this river!

The Bedford chapter at Lambertville, Mich., reported a field trip in the spring to Toledo to observe college seals with Latin inscriptions and hear a lecture at the Museum of Art. The spring issue of *Nuntius Romae*, prepared by second-year students at Fairmont, Minn., had nine pages of varied material. The compilation under "Believe It Or Not" is especially interesting. New Albany, Ind., was host to the District Contest in the Indiana University High School Achievement Program with contests in Latin, English, and mathematics. The state contest was at Bloomington. Hackettstown, N. J., a new chapter last year, sponsored a poster contest in the spring.

April brings Latin Week, which is being observed almost universally now, according to the reports. Roman banquets are popular in April, and many of the state federations meet then.

This November report is arranged by months. April activities will be printed in the January *Torch: US*. Miss Lourania Miller, of Dallas, Texas, committee member in charge of federations, will report then on their growth.

The JCL program this year recommends more regional meetings before the first national meeting in 1954, and a subscription campaign for *Torch: US*. State chairmen are arranging regional meetings. Sponsors receive the first report in the November issue of THE CLASSICAL OUT-

LOOK, the second in the January *Torch: US*, the third in the form of a mimeographed list of chapters in March, and the fourth in the April *Torch: US*.

Subscriptions to *Torch: US* are being received by Billie Jo Payne, Editor, c/o the High School, Henderson, Texas. For one dollar, chapters receive two printed issues, one dated January 15 and the other April 1. Students are encouraged to order copies for themselves, at ten cents for the two issues. Reports for the first issue must be received by December 20. The sponsor of the paper is Miss Belle Gould, a member of the national committee.

Members of the national committee wish to express their gratitude to the American Classical League for their encouragement and assistance in so many ways through the office at Miami University. They appreciate the opportunity of meeting together for one of the luncheons at the Latin Institute. Adeline Reeping, state chairman of Pennsylvania, was on the program of the Latin Institute to explain the development of the Pennsylvania Federation.

THE CLASSICS IN CARTOON AND RADIO

BY EDWARD C. ECHOLS
University of Alabama

THE CONTRIBUTION of the classics to the so-called impermanent arts, such as the radio and magazine cartoons, is usually quite conventional and carefully familiar. Occasionally, however, a classical thread runs surprisingly true amidst the dross of such day-to-day trivia. Such is the case in a cartoon by Charles Addams featuring the distaff side of his awesome atypical (let us piously hope!) American family, whose macabre activities are regularly chronicled in the pages of *The New Yorker* magazine. In the cartoon under consideration, the wife of the family, a vampire in the true Draculan sense of the word, is shown seated at her desk, composing a letter to her absent husband, an adequate monster in his own right:

"Dearest: How I wish you were here with me now to see how lovely our little garden has become! The black nightshade is in full bloom, and the death camass we planted last fall is coming along beautifully. The henbane seems to have shot up overnight. You will be glad to know that the dwarf's hair was not affected by the dry spell, as we feared, after all. A myriad delightful little slugs have appeared, as if from nowhere, on the

rotten stump by the belladonna patch, and this morning I noticed snake eggs hatching near the pool. Do finish that business, darling, and hurry home." (*The New Yorker*, August 6, 1949, p. 17)

Addams' fearful couple have a kindred ancient spirit. According to Plutarch (*Dem.* xx, 1-2), "... Antiochus Philometor used to grow poisonous plants, not only henbane and hellebore, but also hemlock, aconite, and dorycnium, sowing and planting them himself in the royal gardens, and then making it his business to know their juices and fruits, and to collect these at the proper season." Philometor, "one who loves his mother," seems a rather curious designation for a man with such a hobby, unless his "love" had Neronian overtones; poison is at least more dignified than falling ceilings and collapsible boats.

One would hardly be inclined, at casual glance, to associate any aspect of the modern "Quiz Show" with the stern austerity of Spartan life; but, among others, the "Queen For A Day" program over the Mutual Broadcasting System selects its "Queen" by a method that is markedly similar to Spartan election procedures. On the MBS program, several contestants are selected as candidates and given an opportunity to tell their stories. A board then selects the outstanding contestants, and the audience makes the final decision by the volume of its applause. The "Queen" is then crowned and royally rewarded.

Plutarch (*Lyc.* xxvi, 2-3) describes a Spartan election: "An assembly of the people having been convened, the men chosen as judges were shut up in a room nearby so that they could neither see nor be seen, but only hear the shouts of the assembly. For as in other matters, so here, the cries of the assembly decided between the competitors. These did not appear in a body, but each one was introduced separately, as the lot fell, and passed silently through the assembly. Then the secluded judges, who had writing tablets with them, recorded in each case the loudness of the shouting, not knowing for whom it was given, but only that he was introduced first, second, or third, and so on. Whoever was greeted with the most and loudest shouting, him they declared elected. The victor then set a wreath upon his head and visited in order the temples of the gods."

MBS's "Queen" is wine and dined, and Sparta's newly-elected official received repasts from his friends and relatives. Perhaps in both

cases Tyche (Fortuna) received at least a silent and/or symbolic libation.



CLYTIE AND SOL

BY WILLIAM C. GRUMMEL
University of Washington

In one of the poems printed recently in *THE CLASSICAL OUTLOOK* (XXIX, May, 1952, 81) the author makes Clytie yearn for Apollo, the son of Zeus and Leto. Ovid, who tells the story in his *Metamorphoses* (iv, 167-270), makes it clear that Clytie was the discarded mistress of Sol, Hyperion's son.

The whole passage deals with the amours of the Sun-god. Leucothea begins her tale thus:

"Hunc quoque, siderea qui temperat omnia luce,
cepit amor Solem: Solis referemus amores.

Primus adulterium Veneris cum Marte putatur

hic vidisse deus; videt hic deus omnia primus. (169-172)

She goes on to tell that Sol (Helios) not only observed the deed, but became a meddling tale-bearer. Venus saw to it that the one who betrayed her hidden affair was betrayed in like manner. Sol falls in love with Leucothea, who is buried alive when the jealous Clytie

vulgat adulterium diffamatumque parenti

indicat. (236-7)

Then *Hyperione natus* (241) digs her up, but the weight of the earth has killed her. Henceforth he pays no attention to Clytie, who turns into a sunflower:

... illa suum, quamvis radice tenetur,

vertitur ad Solem mutataque servat amorem. (269-70)

In his handling of the myth Ovid does not in any way identify Apollo with Sol. In this he is in agreement with the Greek and Roman poets and mythographers who avoid such an identification. (Cf. Joseph E. Fontenrose, "Apollo and Sol in the Latin Poets of the First Century B. C.," *TAPA* 70, 1939, 439-55, and "Apollo and the Sun-God in Ovid," *AJP* 61, 1940, 429-44). The current notion that Apollo was a sun-god has its basis in the learned syncretism of the philosophic sects (Plutarch, *De Pyth. orac.* 400 c, d; Macrobius i, 17; Cicero, *De nat. deor.* ii, 27, 68; iii, 20, 51), not in the myths, where the attributes and functions of the two gods were kept separate and distinct. It was later popularized by the sun-worship of the Romans and the arguments of the early Christian fathers

against the pagan sects and, in the course of time, made its way into most handbooks of mythology.



PLINY AND THE NEWS

Within recent weeks several news items of greater or lesser public interest have recalled to the mind of the classical student rather striking parallels in the letters of Pliny the Younger.

A national weekly magazine, for example, carried a story of a Michigan man whose house is so constructed that a brook actually flows through it, enabling the owner to sit in his living-room and catch fish at his ease! The reader of Pliny will recall here that author's villa "Comedy," on Lake Como, from a room in which, "and almost from bed," one could fish "as from a boat": "... ex hac ipse piscari hamumque de cubiculo ac paene etiam de lectulo ut e naucula iacere" (ix, 7, 4).

The controversy over the ethical principles involved in gifts of money to aspiring or actual public officials inevitably brings to mind the nineteenth letter of Book i, in which Pliny offers to Romatius Firmus, a friend and fellow-townsmen, the sum of 300,000 sesterces to enable him to be enrolled in the equestrian order. Romatius was at the time a *decurio*, or municipal official, of Comum, Pliny's birthplace. Pliny ascribes the gift to friendship alone. He adds: "Te memorem huius muneris amicitiae nostrae diuturnitas spondet: ego ne illud quidem admoneo, quod admonere deberem, nisi scirem sponte facturum, ut dignitate a me data quam modestissime, ut a me data, utare. Nam sollicitus custodiendus est honor in quo etiam beneficium amici tuendum est."

The attendant discussion as to whether a public officeholder should or should not have a private law practice on the side, recalls the twenty-third letter of the same book. Here the question is raised as to the propriety of a tribune's pleading cases during his term of office. Pliny leaves the decision to his correspondent, Pompeius Falco; but he points out in no uncertain terms that he himself disapproves of the practice, and that he avoided it during his own tribunate. He says: "Erat hic quoque aestus ante oculos, si forte me appellasset vel ille cui adessem vel ille quem contra, intercederem et auxilium ferrem, an quiescerem sileremque et quasi eiurato magistratu privatum ipse me facerem." —L.B.L.

BOOK NOTES

Interlingua-English Dictionary. By Alexander Gode and Others. New York: Storm Publishers, 1951. Pp. lxiv plus 415. \$5.00.

In 1924 the International Auxiliary Language Association was formed to study existing auxiliary languages, and to engage in experimentation in the field. Since that date a great many linguists of distinction have worked in or with the Association. Now at length the fruit of their labors has been given to the world in the *Interlingua-English Dictionary*. The compilers express the view (p. xvii) that we "need not wait for the creator of an ideal universal tongue, because it is a fact that the international language exists potentially in the common elements of the speech forms of huge segments of civilized mankind." The dictionary, then, assembles these common elements. Many, but not all, of the words are ultimately Latin or Greek. *Pharo*, for example, is the word for "light house," *nostra* for "our," *quaranta* for "forty," *esser* for "be," *sanguine* for "blood." The introductory sections of the book, on international languages in general, and this one in particular, are excellent. It remains now but to wait and see how the world may respond to this newest "Interlingua." —L.B.L.

City-State and World State in Greek and Roman Political Theory until Augustus. By Mason Hammond. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1951. Pp. x plus 217. \$4.00.

Professor Hammond, who is well known for his studies in the history of the Roman Empire, especially his *The Augustan Principate* (1933), is among those who believe that the modern classicist must put his specialized training and knowledge at the disposal of the larger community of scholars and educated laymen. Based upon a series of lectures delivered in 1948, the present volume "is intended for the student of the general history of political theory and not for the specialist..." (Preface); contents, presentation, bibliography, and index have been determined by this purpose. Keynote of the author's message is "the inability of ancient thinkers to provide an adequate theory for an ecumenical form of government" (p. 97) with the corollary that the lesson to be learned from the facts is "that stagnation is inevitable when orthodox political

theory fails to progress in response to changed political conditions" (p. 165). Where the ancients could not escape the traditions of the city-state with their insistence upon the direct exercise of citizenship, it is the theory of national sovereignty which now dominates political thinking and impedes progress. This conclusion is reached after a thoughtful and lucid review of the political thought of the ancient world from Homer through the formation of the principate, dwelling inevitably most upon Plato, Aristotle, Polybius, and Cicero (whose contributions are sympathetically and fairly judged), but not omitting the leagues and monarchies of the Hellenistic period. The few misprints noted, mainly in the German titles of books cited, do not detract from the service rendered by author and publisher to the modern world.

—K. G.

Vis-Ed Latin Vocabulary Cards.
Dayton, Ohio: The Visual Education Association, Inc., 1951.
\$1.50.

This set of "visual aids" consists of white cards, 3 1/2 by 1 1/2 inches in size, with a Latin word printed in 18-point bold-faced type on the obverse and with one or more English definitions of the Latin word printed in smaller type on the reverse. The obverse, in most instances, also contains in the smaller type one or more etymologically related Latin and/or English words and the definitions of these added words are printed on the reverse.

The 1000 basic Latin words (*ab*, *acer*, *acies*, *ad*, *adeo*, etc.) have been chosen from official word lists and, together with the additional words just mentioned, provide formal vocabulary drill on more than 2300 Latin words and also on a considerable number of English derivatives. Each set contains 25 blank cards to provide for additional entries.

The cards, alphabetically arranged and consecutively numbered, come packed in a sturdy pasteboard box so that the student can easily pull out, for self-drill, cards for those Latin words in his lesson vocabulary or reading assignment which he finds that he has failed to learn from context or from etymologizing. Other possible uses will occur to the teacher—e.g., for vocabulary matches, drill on principal parts of verbs, genitive singulars of nouns, idiomatic phrases, derivatives.

Caveat emptor: Macrons are used

only for the infinitives of second conjugation verbs.

Vis-Ed vocabulary cards are available also for French, German, Greek, Russian, and Spanish.

—W.L.C.

Porius, A Romance of the Dark Ages. By John Cowper Powys.
New York: Philosophical Library, 1952. Pp. 628. \$5.75.

It takes stamina to start the first novel that Powys has offered in eleven years, for it is like reading something in a foreign language. Even though one vaguely knows the period covered, he scarcely recognizes King Arthur under the name Amherawdr. Druids are called Derwydd. Merlin has no less than four different names: Myrdden ap Morfryn, Myrdden Wylt, Emrys, and Merlinus Ambrosius.

It is disconcerting to have complete names given each time, as Porius ap Einion, or even Brochvael ap Iddawc ap Edeyrn. The use of Gaelic words as common nouns is a bit confusing, as "one of the silentary" or "Little did he guess to what a tynged his quest would carry him." The habit the hero has of separating his mind from his body is also sometimes disconcerting, as is the occasional stilted conversation.

But in spite of these difficulties, once the reader gets into this story of a fateful week in October, 499 A.D., Powys' novel becomes a thrilling experience. At its start, Roman culture is still strong in England and the old religions are powerful. At its conclusion, the last Druid is dead and Christianity has become dominant.

The plot is simple. Porius, heir to Edeyrnion, is to marry his cousin Morfydd, though she loves Rhun, son of the Prince's sister. Some of the tribes want to join Emperor Arthur against the Seison invaders; others want independence. Villainy and magic make up what little action the novel has, but the philosophy and the historical background are what gives this romance its power. The situation in ancient Britain suggests parallels with today's unsettled conditions.

—Willis Knapp Jones

Pliny: Natural History IX. Books 33-35. Translated by H. Rackham. (Loeb Classical Library, No. 394). Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1952. Pp. vii plus 421. \$3.00.

This, the ninth of a projected ten-volume series to include all of Pliny the Elder's great encyclopaedic work,

the *Naturalis Historia*, is one of the most interesting of the set. It includes in general the sections on metals, on sculpture, and on painting. We find in it passages on gold and gold-mining, on electrum, silver, quicksilver, copper, bronze, iron, lead, and tin. There are all sorts of interesting items and stories about famous rings, brooches, necklaces, mirrors, coins, gold crowns, etc., as well as examples, from Greek and Roman history, of unusual wealth and extravagance. Accounts of metal statues lead on to stories of famous sculptors. The portion on painting is rich in information on the history of the ancient graphic art, on colors and how they were obtained, and on famous paintings. There are valuable sections on Roman painters and on women painters. There are also many anecdotes of great painters and paintings. Among the latter are the famous "shoemaker, stick to your last" story concerning Apelles (xxxv, 36, 84-5), the story of Nero's portrait on linen, 120 feet high (xxxv, 33, 51), and the tale of how Protogenes produced a desired effect accidentally, by throwing a sponge at one of his paintings (xxxv, 36, 103). The author proceeds to a discussion of modelling in clay and plaster, and then to pottery, with accompanying stories of fabulously expensive specimens of the ceramic art. The volume ends with information on such substances as sulphur, bitumen, alum, and various earths.

Assuredly any person interested in antiquity—from the college professor down to the exploring high-school student—will find this volume fascinating.

—L.B.L.

NOTES AND NOTICES

Officers of the American Philological Association for the current year are: President, Jakob A. O. Larsen, of the University of Chicago; Vice-Presidents, T. Robert S. Broughton, of Bryn Mawr College, and Ben E. Perry, of the University of Illinois; Secretary-Treasurer and Representative to the Council of the American Classical League, Meriwether Stuart, of Hunter College; Editor, Phillip H. DeLacy, of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

Officers of the Classical Association of New England for 1952-53 are: President, Thomas Means, of Bowdoin College; Vice-President, Dorothy Rounds, of the Arlington (Mass.) High School; Secretary-Treasurer and Representative to the

Council of the American Classical League, F. Stuart Crawford, of Boston University.

Officers of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South for 1952-53 are: President, Russel M. Geer, of Tulane University; First Vice-President, H. G. Robertson, of Victoria College, University of Toronto; Secretary-Treasurer and Representative to the Council of the American Classical League, John N. Hough, of the University of Colorado; Editor of *The Classical Journal*, Clyde Murley, of Northwestern University.

Officers of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States for 1952-53 are: President, Emilie Margaret White, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, Divisions 1-9, Washington, D. C.; Vice-Presidents, Earl L. Crum, of Lehigh University, and John F. Latimer, of George Washington University; Secretary-Treasurer and Representative to the Council of the American Classical League, Eugene W. Miller, of the University of Pittsburgh; Editor of *The Classical Weekly*, Edward A. Robinson, of Fordham University. The Association will meet, in conjunction with the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall Hotel in Atlantic City, N. J., on November 29, 1952; the Executive Committee will meet on November 28.

Officers of the Classical Association of the Pacific States for the current year are: President, Professor Paul A. Clement, of the University of California at Los Angeles; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Edward L. Lindsay, of Grant Union High School, North Sacramento.

Officers of the Philological Association of the Pacific Coast for the current year are: President, Arthur E. Gordon, of the University of California at Berkeley; Vice-Presidents, P. W. Souers, of the University of Oregon, and Eli Sobel, of the University of California at Los Angeles; Secretary-Treasurer, D. B. Pallette, of the University of Southern California. The annual meeting will be held November 28 and 29, at Santa Barbara College.

Officers of the Classical Society of the American Academy in Rome for the current year are: President, Lucy T. Shoe, of the Institute for Advanced Study; Vice-Presidents, Edward J. Capps, Jr., of Oberlin College and Philip W. Harsh, of Stanford University; Secretary, Doris Taylor, of Western Reserve Uni-

versity; Treasurer, Lois V. Williams, of New York State College for Teachers at Albany.

Faculty officers of Eta Sigma Phi, national honorary classics fraternity, are: Executive Secretary, Graydon W. Regenos, of Tulane University; Honorary President, Gertrude Smith, of the University of Chicago; Honorary Executive Secretary, W. C. Korfmacher, of St. Louis University; Trustees, Victor D. Hill (1955), of Ohio University, Chairman; Grace L. Beede (1953), of the University of South Dakota; Lillian B. Lawler (1955), of Hunter College; H. Lloyd Stow (1954), of the University of Oklahoma; and William H. Willis (1953), of the University of Mississippi.

Winners of regional scholarships to the 1952 Summer Session of the American Academy in Rome included: From the Classical Association of New England, Rebecca E. Satterlee, of the North Haven (Conn.) Junior High School; from the Classical Association of the Atlantic States, Hazel Beall, of the Alice Deal Junior High School, Washington, D. C.; from the Ohio Classical Conference, Ruth Holl, of New Knoxville; from the New Jersey Classical Association, Maurice Friedman, of South Side High School, Newark; from the Pennsylvania State Association of Classical Teachers, Miriam W. Cokely, of Punxsutawney High School; from the Marshall Fund of the University of Pittsburgh, Miss Cokely. The Marshall Fund also granted a scholarship for the Summer Session of the American School at Athens to Evelyn Guss, of Marysville College, Tennessee.

Classical and mediaeval plays presented during 1952 included: the *Trojan Women* of Euripides in English at Rockford College and at Cedar Crest College; the *Electra* of Euripides in English at the Goodman Theater of the Chicago Art Institute; the *Gallicanus* of Hroswitha in Latin at Bryn Mawr College; the *Thesmophoriazusae* of Aristophanes in English at Hunter College; the *Menaechmi* of Plautus in English at Hunter College; the *Frogs* of Aristophanes in English at the University of New Brunswick, in Canada; the *Birds* of Aristophanes in Greek at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and in English at Yale University; the *Oedipus Rex* of Sophocles in English at the University of Kentucky.

During 1952-53 Eta Sigma Phi will conduct its fourth annual Greek Translation Contest, its eighth an-

nual Essay Contest, its third annual Satterfield Latin Version Contest, and its second Chapter Foreign Language Census. Details may be obtained from Professor G. W. Regenos, Tulane University, New Orleans 15, La.

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Please order material at least two weeks in advance of the date on which you want to use it. In an emergency, add 20c for special-handling postage.

Because of the increased cost of fourth-class postage, effective October 1, 1951, please add 20c for any order of \$1.50 or more. The address of the Service Bureau is Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

W. L. CARR, Director

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Booklets

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Articles in THE CLASSICAL OUTLOOK Price, 15¢ each.

The Roman Saturnalia. December, 1937.

Christmas and the Roman Saturnalia. December, 1938.

Some Ancient and Modern Yuletide Customs. December, 1939.

Christmas Gifts and the Gift Bringer. December, 1940.

Christmas and the Epiphany: Their Pagan Antecedents. December, 1941.

December 25th, Christmas Day. December, 1942.

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